

Application/Control Number: 09/874,873
Art Unit: 2613

Docket No.: 2001-0161

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested. Applicants have cancelled claims 1 - 4 and 8 - 39. New claims 40 - 48 are added for consideration. No new matter is added.

The Examiner noted that claims 5 - 7 are objected to but would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 5 to incorporate these limitations and therefore Applicants submit that claim 5 and dependent claims 6 and 7 are now patentable and in condition for allowance. Applicants also note that since the limitations of the parent claim 1 and claims 3 and 4 are essentially incorporated into new independent claim 5, that this amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 5 and is not made for patentability. The rejection of claims 1 - 4 and 8 - 39 are rendered moot in that these claims are now cancelled.

Applicants have also added claims 40 - 48. These claims are alternate embodiments of the invention that have claim limitations that resemble allowable claims 5 - 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed the rejection of claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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